



Bally Groundwater Contamination Site

Bally Borough, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Focused Feasibility Study Nears Completion

September 2006

Focused Feasibility Study Nears Completion

The focused feasibility study (FFS) for the Bally Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site is nearing completion. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expects a draft FFS to be completed by the end of September 2006. The study will evaluate treatment of 1,4-dioxane at the existing municipal well versus installation of a new well at an uncontaminated location to determine which remedy will be the best solution for the borough of Bally.

Next Steps

Once the FFS is reviewed by EPA and finalized, EPA will develop a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) to share with the residents of Bally. The PRAP describes each cleanup alternative that was studied by EPA during the FFS and states which of those alternatives is EPA's preferred method of cleanup. A public meeting will be scheduled to explain the PRAP and allow for residents to ask questions of EPA. In addition to comments accepted at the public meeting, an official 30-day comment period will be held during which residents may submit comments on the PRAP.

Following the 30-day comment period, EPA will consider and respond to all comments in a responsiveness summary. The responsiveness summary will be included in the final amendment to the Record of Decision (ROD) for the treatment of 1,4-dioxane at the site. The PRAP is currently expected to be complete in winter 2006.

What is 1,4-dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is a clear liquid that dissolves in water at all concentrations. It is used primarily as a solvent in the manufacture of chemicals and as a laboratory reagent. 1,4-dioxane also has various other uses that take advantage of its solvent properties. 1,4-Dioxane is a trace contaminant of some chemicals used in cosmetics, detergents, and shampoos. However, manufacturers now reduce 1,4-dioxane from these chemicals to low levels before these chemicals are made into products used in the home.

For More information on 1,4-Dioxane, go to:

www.atsdr.cdc.gov

Questions? Please contact:

Mitch Cron

EPA Remedial Project Manager
(215) 814-3286

Carrie Deitzel

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
(215) 814-5525 or 1-800-553-2509 (toll-free)

For health-related questions, please contact:

Lora Werner, MPH

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
Registry
215-814-3141

Site History

The Bally Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site consists of an area of groundwater contamination in and around the former Bally Engineered Structures plant in the Borough of Bally, Pennsylvania. In 1982, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources discovered organic solvent contamination in Bally Municipal Well No. 3. The well was taken out of service shortly thereafter.

Currently, to address the contamination, water is being pumped from the well and treated by an air stripper to remove Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) before it is discharged to the municipal water supply system. The source of the contamination is thought to be Bally Engineered Structures, a company that manufactured urethane-insulated panels for refrigerating, which is located approximately 1,000 feet from Municipal Well No. 3. The company and its predecessor used lagoons on the property to dispose of spent solvent waste from at least 1960 to 1965. By 1966, the lagoons were backfilled and the area was used for vehicle parking.

In February 2003, the compound 1,4-dioxane was identified at low concentrations in the Bally municipal water system. This contaminant is not removed by the air stripper currently in-place. This situation was discussed with local residents during March 19, 2003 public meetings. The Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) for the Site was tasked to prepare a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) to evaluate options to resolve this issue.

EPA Update on the Bally Groundwater Contamination Site



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Carrie Deitzel
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103